[Interview with Vito Cacciola #48]

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"As well as remembered."

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Interview with Vito Cacciola

by Merton R. Lovett

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(from memory)

"I have hada no work this morning, Mr. Lovett. I cleana up de shop. I washa some clothes. One time I visit de garage and chewa some de rag.

"Oh, it coulda be worse. I do not bellyache. I gota still plenty to eat. Just now I am cooka some veal. Does it not smella delicious?

"Envy is like de cancer. It destroys de happiness. Some peoples are most foolish.

"Tell me what it saya on this coin.

"So that is it. All for one. One for all. So it should be in this great country. Everybodys should help each other. There should be more perfect cooperation. Why should some have great riches and many live with poverty?

"Yes, the law of Jesus would bring peace and happiness. Now everyones must fight each other for jobs and for de necessities of life. The strong and de smart peoples eata de weak like canibals.

"I think that peoples acta like dogs and not like brothers. Did you not see de dogs fighta for bone? They make growls. They grabe it from each other. They seize it and run till they is catch-ed. Finally de biggest dog eate it up.

"Yes, I think that is de good example too. Also de rich peoples hava too much pride. They boasta. They make poor peoples envious, when they drive de big autos and weare too precious clothes.

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"Sure, they make disharmony. Sometimes it is dangerous. Did you read about de rich man in New York? That man's wife wear jewels worth \$100,000 to de party. He is proud, but he excita envy in many peoples. In de night gangsters break in his house. They aska him, where is de jewels? He does not tella them at first, so what does they do? They burna his feet. Oh, it is terrible! He screams, but bye and bye he losa his courage. He saya to hisself,- 'My life it is worth more than jewels'. He give them to de thief.

"Sure, it was his mistake to show so much wealth in public. Pride and greed costa too much.

"What would I do if I had a million dollars? By jingo, Mr. Lovett, I cannot dream of so much money.

"Well, if I was richa man, I would not spenda it for great luxury. What good would it do for Vito, if he hava many autos? De mansion with many rooms, I would not enjoy.

"Yes, I would buya de good piano. Perhaps I would geta de big organ, the same lika I once playa in Sicily. Music gives me much pleasure. I would shara it with others. Many of de poor musicians I would helpa.

"First I would helpa my brother Peter. My mother and de relatives in Italy. I would make comfortable and happy.

"And I would geta educated. By jingo, I would learna how to talk so good as American. When I had learn-ed, I mean learned, I would be de missionary. De money I would spend to bringa knowledge of good living to others. Lika Jesus preach-ed,

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I would give to de poor. From their hearts I would lift aworry and sin.

"I am glad you agrees with me, Mr. Lovett. But it is foolishness to dreama so. De cobbler must be satisfi-ed with riches in de mind and heart.

"Meeta my Sister by de law, Marie.

"This is Mr. Lovett of whom I tella you.

"It is most pleasant to geta such a lovely cake. With de veal which I cooked I will eata dinner lika de President.

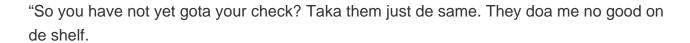
"Maris is kind lika angel, Mr. Lovett. Often she cooks for me delicious food. Sometimes she irona my clothes.

"No, my jingo, I would be no better, if I had de wife. I am de good housekeeper. Is it not so Marie?

"My! My! You is joking Marie. You can find ano dirt in my bedroom. It is so neata as pin.

"She is very fine woman, Mr. Lovett. Some evening you must visita my brother Peter's house. My niece, Angela, will play for you de piano.

"Here is de shoes for your daughter, Mary. They is fix-ed. Will you taka them?



"We is friends. I trusta you with pleasure.

"All righta then, I hope you get de check soon."